



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
HAYNESVILLE

1824 - 2024

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalms 100:5 NIV

We give thanks and praise to our Lord for his blessings on this church, for the people who have worshipped, the pastors who have led, and the hearts of the many who have served in the past 200 years. We pray that He will allow us to continue to be a light on this hill for generations to come.



EARLY HISTORY

Houston County was created May 15, 1821 through a treaty with the Creek Indians. Early settlers in Houston County were mostly winners of the land lottery of 1821. Many came to farm from the Georgia coast, the Carolinas, and Virginia. On June 29, 1822, the General Baptist Association was organized in Georgia (later called the Baptist Convention for the State of Georgia).

The first Baptist congregation established in Houston County was in the community of Hayneville. It was originally named Dry Creek Baptist Church. There were 9 charter members, and Rev. Frederick Barber was the first pastor. The church was constituted on October 9, 1824 (the same year that Perry was incorporated), and the name was changed to Hayneville Baptist Church in 1837. The church was a member of the Ebenezer Association, then Echaconnee Association, eventually joining the Rehoboth Association in 1841.

The William Coalson family gifted land for Hayneville Baptist Church to be built. The Coalson family also gifted land for the Methodist Church to be built in an adjacent grove. Not uncommon in the earliest days, the deeds for these land gifts are not recorded at the courthouse; so the exact date is unknown. However, FBCH still

retains the land donated by the Coalsons, which was approximately 4.5 acres.

While not a lot is recorded about William Coalson, we do know that he was a trustee of the Hayneville Academy chartered in 1838. At one time, more than 100 students attended the academy. Reading, writing and spelling were offered at \$3 per term, geography and arithmetic at \$4, and French drawing, painting and embroidery was \$10 in an 1847 advertisement.

In September of 1854, Hayneville Baptist Church purchased an additional 2 acres from the William S. Coalson Estate for the sum of \$20.

The Coalson cemetery is located behind the Haynesville Fire Department in poor condition, but plans are underway for the cemetery to be kept up by the church brotherhood.

The original church building was a one room log structure built by the pioneer settlers. However, in less than two decades from the formation of Houston County, Hayneville had an abundance of prosperity. The first log cabins had disappeared and been replaced with white clapboard homes with Corinthian columns. In 1850 the log church was replaced with a building of colonial architecture which was in use until 1956. Joseph Tooke, conceded to be the wealthiest man in Houston County at that time, donated the building materials for Hayneville Baptist Church as well as for the Methodist Church. Tooke himself was Methodist.

The original sills of the frame building were made of solid timber 60 feet long. A cross made from it by Joe Goodroe now hangs in the present baptistery.

The pulpit was originally situated at the front of the building between the two entrances of the church. As one entered the church, he faced

the congregation. A balcony at the rear provided benches for the slaves.



(photo of colonial church; see additional photo on cover)



Joseph Tooke

There is considerable information recorded about Joseph Tooke (1803-1883). Known as a kind and generous man, he owned a 5000

acre plantation that extended beyond Clinchfield to the Big Indian Creek. His vast acreage included Houston Factory (a cotton factory). He operated grist mills, manufactured furniture, and had a wagon factory in Hawkinsville. In the Civil war, he had a contract to build wagons for the army. He also ran a distillery. Along with William Coalson, Tooke was a trustee of Hayneville Academy. The Tooke cemetery is just off the Golden Isles Parkway in Haynesville, in a now inaccessible area.

Church services were held once a month in the early days and were anticipated with much pleasure. Early pastors were circuit riders. Among the early ministers were ZH Gordon, AT Holmes, Wilson Conner, BF Tharp, James Perryman, Robert Fleming, and SW Durham. Slaves were allowed and encouraged to join the church. Membership prior to the Civil War consisted largely of slaves, with 39 white members and 102 slave members in 1862.

Hayneville Baptist Church was one of the earliest and strongest supporters of the Georgia Baptist Convention. The affluence of its membership was generously shared in the development of many sister churches. One of the most prominent of those churches was the First Baptist Church of Marthasville, now known as the First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

HAYNEVILLE IN THE 1800'S

No record of the origin of the name "Hayneville" has been preserved. With very few exceptions, food products and wearing apparel were produced in homes and on plantations. At one time, Hayneville was one of the best trading points in Georgia. There were at least eight stores carrying a stock of general merchandise, a blacksmith shop, a

doctor's office, two churches (Baptist and Methodist), and the academy.

Following the Civil War in 1865, most of the large plantations were divided into small farms, and the soil was cultivated by renters or by wage hands.

Originally, people traveled to Perry to collect their mail, which came by stagecoach. Later a railroad was built to Perry and mail was conveyed on the train. The first mail delivery Hayneville had was in the 1880's. The route from Perry included Hayneville, Spoonville, and Henderson. When the GS & F Railroad was built, the town of Grovania, three miles west of Hayneville, was founded and a post office established. From this point, mail was delivered to Hayneville tri-weekly. Later, the government put on a "star route" with mail delivery daily by mail carrier.

CHURCH HISTORY IN 1900'S

In 1901 it was reported that the church had 18 members and total finances of \$602.25.

In June 1911 new lights and windows were installed in the interior of the colonial church.

In 1914 a fire destroyed the home of the church clerk, Dozier Daniel. Old church records were lost.

In 1949 the church opened a checking account with Frank Douglas, Sr. serving as treasurer. Until that time, Sunday School and Church offerings were kept separate. The salary of the pastor during this period was \$25 per week, if available, according to church minutes.

Church records from 1952 note that deacons selected women as ushers for taking offering, JoAnn Harper and Betty Lou Douglas.



Vacation Bible School in colonial church mid 1950's



In 1953 the church began Baptist Training Union (BTU). Fifty song books were also purchased that year.



Billy & Lilli Ann Barrett, married November 3, 1956 in colonial church by Pastor Angus Hart

In March of 1957, plans were made for a new church building under the direction of Rev. J.J. Morrow. Lumber and material from the colonial church was used in the new structure. While construction was in progress, church services were held in an old store in Clinchfield owned by Cecil and Lelia McCraven. The youth Sunday School class met in a car.



1958 Razing Old Colonial Church

Though the new church building was not complete, a Thanksgiving service was held in November 1958 with 27 members present.

In March 1959, regular church services began in the new brick church building. The building had two restrooms and four to five Sunday School classes. The first two people to join the church in the new building were Theresa Hutto (Singletary) and Mrs. Ruby Padgett on March 13.

In 1965 Hayneville Baptist Church was renamed First Baptist Church of Hayneville. The name change was suggested by Elmer Hutto due to another local church on Pitts Road which was also called Hayneville Baptist Church and the confusion caused with mail delivery.

In 1966 a Sunday School annex was built to the rear of the sanctuary. This annex contained eight classrooms, two restrooms and a kitchen.

A banner was placed across Highway 341 and a billboard erected announcing a Youth Crusade which was held in June 1967.

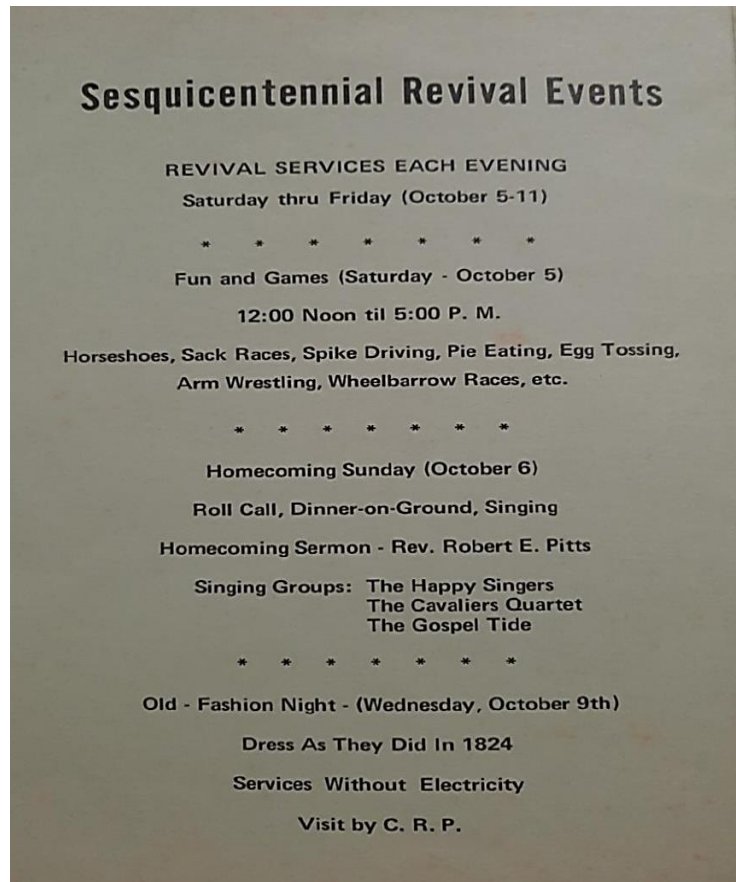


A church steeple was added in 1969. In 1970 two more Sunday School rooms were added, and a baptistery was built in the sanctuary. Paved parking lots were added in 1972.



Brick Church Building

In 1974 a Sesquicentennial Celebration was held marking 150 years.



The celebration began on Saturday afternoon with barbecue being cooked, a peanut boiling, and old fashioned games such as wheel barrow racing and arm wrestling, followed by a sermon.

On Wednesday, the pastor at that time, Bob Parrish, rode up on a horse with an antique rifle as an old circuit riding preacher would have done in the 1800's. The congregation dressed in old fashioned attire, and no electric lights were used during the service. Light was provided by kerosene lanterns and candles.

Other church staff at that time included Gail Yansom, church clerk; Winfred Huff, Sunday School superintendent; John Fowler, chairman of deacons; Ruth Hutto, treasurer; and David Forehand, Training Union director.



This table was creaking Sunday afternoon with food of all kinds, as the First Baptist Church of Hayneville had "dinner on the grounds". The church was in the second day of a week-long revival celebrating the 150th anniversary of the church's founding. On Saturday the revival kicked

off with peanut-boiling and barbecuing on the grounds. "Old-fashioned" games were played Saturday afternoon, and Saturday night Rev. Andy Hornbaker of Colorado began his series of messages.



Circuit Riding Preachers Andy Hornbaker (L) and Bob Parrish (R) ride up to Hayneville Baptist Church Wednesday night of last week. The two ministers are dressed in authentic 18th century attire, and Rev. Hornbaker is carrying a flint-lock musket. In days gone by, rural churches had no regular minister, and were served by the "C.R.P.'S" who rode from church to church preaching.



October 9, 1974
Old Fashioned Night – 150th Anniversary
Services were held without electricity.

In 1975, Johnny Cook was pastor, and attendance was approximately 200.

Ordination services were held on March 11, 1979 for Rev. Winfred Huff. Ordination prayer was given by Winfred's father, Rev. Thomas Huff. Winfred Huff has served as associate pastor at Haynesville from 1997 to the present.

Rev. Doug Boss was welcomed as new pastor in 1984. By this time, the building was in need of repairs. The sanctuary roof leaked, the heat and air system was failing, and facilities were beginning to

appear run down. Attendance had decreased, and funds to address the needs were not available. The Lord provided through two sisters, Mrs. Alma Daniel and Mrs. Nancy Shipp. Together, they donated \$98,000 to the church. As providence would have it, Alma Daniel was the wife of Mike Daniel, who was the grandson of Joseph Tooke. Mr. Tooke donated the material to build the colonial church in 1850. A dedication day was held in May 1986 for the recently finished renovations. This building now serves as the youth building and Haynesville Hide Away Preschool.

Daryl Harbin was called as pastor in 1990. In 1991 the church had 91 baptisms, ranking it 30th in the state according to The Christian Index. The brick on the exterior of the church was covered with stucco in 1991.



In February 1994, David Fisher became pastor after serving for two months as interim. He had previously pastored Northside Baptist Church in Fitzgerald for 26 years, seeing that church grow from 150 members to over 2000 during his ministry there. First Baptist Hayneville grew under his leadership, and he served for nearly thirty years until his death in January 2024. He was the longest serving pastor in the history of FBCH.

Church in 2000's

On January 30, 2000 a new 12,000 square foot Family Life Center was completed. It contains a basketball court, kitchen, stage, 6 classrooms, 2 restrooms and a social hall with seating for 500.



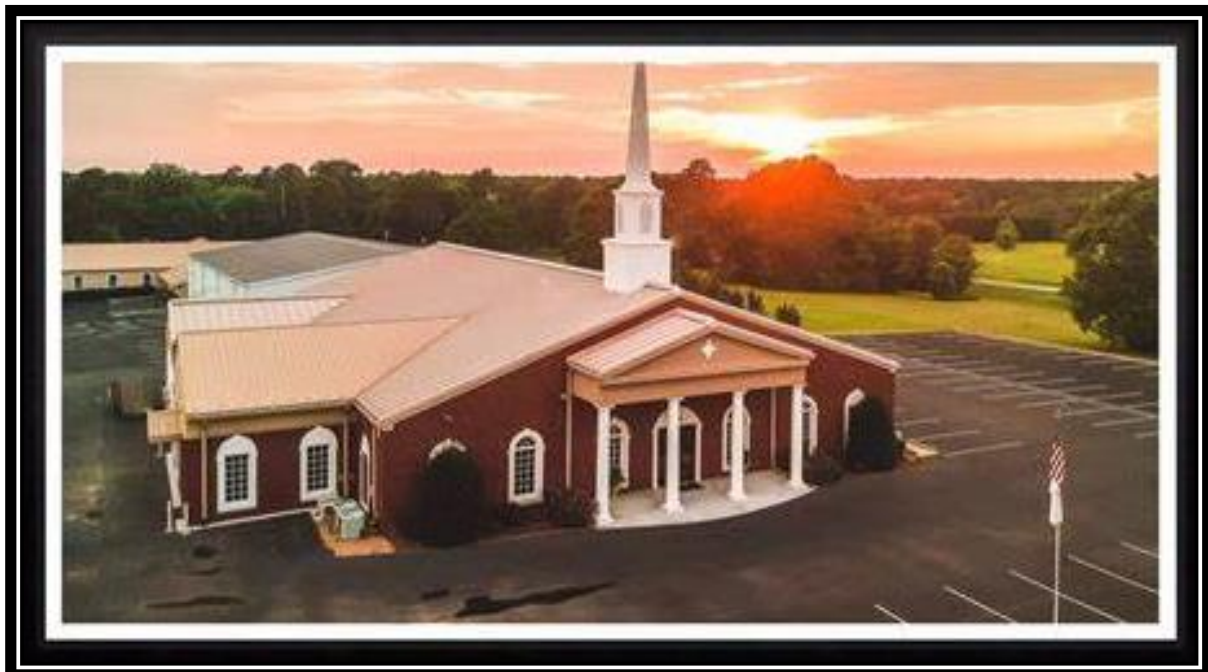
LEADERSHIP — The Building Committee responsible for Hayneville First Baptist Church's new Family Life Center, from left, front row: Jerry Parker, Bobby Fowler, Herman Waits, Hyndall Peavy, Hazel Huff; back row: John Fowler, David Fisher, Matt Hall, Herman Griner, Linda Griner and Cathy Fowler.

The “S” in Haynesville: William “Hoke” Harper was a song leader in the 1950's and a deacon in the church. He was a Justice of the Peace in Hayneville for many years and sang gospel music with the Harper Family. His daughter, Jo Ann was a former pianist for the church.

Mr. Hoke passed away at the age of 91 in 2002, but in his last years he was on a mission to have Hayneville recognized as Haynesville (with an “s”). He was convinced that the official name of the community included the “s” and that it had been dropped in the 1970’s. A petition was eventually submitted to the Department of Transportation to add the “s” to the community road signs. The Houston County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the “s” in January 2003. The church updated its name and signs to read First Baptist Church of Haynesville in 2003.

While the community has been verbally referred to as Haynesville, Hayneville, and even Hayney-ville over the years, it is only listed as Hayneville (without the “s”) on courthouse land records dating back to the mid 1800’s, while newspaper articles from the 1800’s have spelled it both ways.

In 2003 property was purchased to build a new sanctuary and additional parking. The new 450 seat sanctuary was constructed by PAR Church Builders of Gray at a cost of \$1,150,000. At that time church membership was 500. The dedication services for the new sanctuary were held July 20, 2008.





Journal/Charlotte Perkins

Senior Pastor David Fisher and Associate Pastor Winfred Huff and shown here in the new sanctuary of Haynesville First Baptist Church. The church will old its dedication service next Sunday.

SWAT Drama Team: On a Super Wow youth trip at Jekyll Island in the early 2000's, the youth put together a performance of "Awesome God" using black lights and white gloves to perform in a talent show. This prompted the formation of the SWAT Drama Team (Servants with a Testimony) led initially by Hollie Yansom Aaron and April Cochran, then by Rusty Yansom. This group performed in mission trips to Myrtle Beach, Kentucky, and Florida, at the Georgia National Fair, and various churches in the area.



Swat Drama Team
Members at Myrtle
Beach Mission Trip
2008

Haynesville Hide Away Preschool made its debut in 2015 with Leslie Hurst serving as director in the 2015-2016 school term. There were two teachers, several volunteers, and 17 students that ranged in age from two to four. The advisory panel included Hollie Aaron, Becky Driver, Ryan English, Cathy Fowler, and Pam Heesh. Cheri Knowles and Jinger Quimby were later added. In the 2016 school year, Cathy Fowler became the director and continues to serve in that capacity.



2019 Graduating Class of Haynesville Hide Away Preschool, photo by Mike Newman

Our **Security Team** began in 2017 with officer and church member, Doug Blackmon. Today the safety and security program consists of the Security Team led by Matt Hall with 27 members, First Aid Responder Team coordinated by Joyce Yawn with 15 members, and Disaster Preparedness & Response Team with Sherry Kruger as coordinator with 7 members.

Church in 2024



January 7, 2024 Congregation, photo by Mike Newman

Current Deacon Body:

John Fowler, Chairman

Tony Ennis, Scott Ford, Bobby Fowler, Matt Hall, George Harris, Kyle Heesh, Mike Horton, David Knowles, Tim Lewis, Johnny McCarty, Juan Ortiz, Jerry Parker, Ralph Rodriguez, Rayford Spires, Jim Stanley, Mark White, Rusty Yansom

FBCH has many **areas of ministry** today including Sunday School, Awana, RA's/GA's, Children's Church, Youth, Brotherhood, WMU, Widows Ministry, Family Fun Nights, Medical Supply Ministry, Blessing Box Food Ministry, VBS, Choir, JOY Seniors, College & Career, Bereavement, GROW, Media, Security and many others. There is something for everyone of any age. Current adult membership is 588.

HISTORY OF KNOWN PASTORS HAYNEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

The earliest preachers in the 1800's were circuit riders. Early church records were destroyed in a fire at the home of church clerk, Dozier Daniel, in 1914. Surviving church records from the 1920's until the 1950's indicate that preachers in that era were voted on each year to serve a one year period. This list is of known pastors and is likely incomplete.

1800's

- ❖ **Frederick Barber**: listed as first pastor in Rehoboth Association records

Early pastors listed in "historical sketch of Houston county Georgia Baptists", published January 1923 by Walter M. Lee, ThD:

- ❖ **Z. H. Gordon**
- ❖ **A. T. Holmes**: was also elected to board of trustees of Mercer University, 1846
- ❖ **Wilson Conner**
- ❖ **James Perryman**
- ❖ **Robert Fleming**
- ❖ **S. W. Durham**
- ❖ **Jesse H. Campbell**
- ❖ **Benjamin Franklin Tharp** – preached in Hayneville, Perry & Henderson for over 60 years. He was one of Mercer University's first graduates in 1841 and was elected a trustee in 1851. After emancipation, he helped organize black Baptist churches in the area. He was prominent in establishing Rehoboth Missions for Indian tribes in the west and missions in central Africa.



FORMER PASTOR

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN THARP

FEBRUARY 16, 1819 – DECEMBER 20, 1899

Houston Home Journal, Thursday January 4, 1900 Issue

In Memoriam of Dr. Tharp

Rev. Benjamin Franklin Tharp, D.D., who died at his home in Perry Wednesday morning, Dec. 20, 1899, was one of the most highly esteemed gentleman who ever lived here, or in the state.

The funeral services in the Baptist Church were conducted by Rev. A.J. Cheeves of Marshallville, assisted by Dr. W.J. Holtzclaw of Perry, and Dr. B.L. Ross of Fort Valley. In Evergreen cemetery at 3 o'clock

Thursday afternoon, the body of this good man, the earnest, zealous minister of God, was interred beside the grave of his beloved wife.

Dr. Tharp was about 80 years old, having been born in Twiggs Co., Ga., in 1820. [marker has 1819] He was a graduate of the first class of Mercer University, then located in Penfield [GA]. On January 23, 1843, he married Miss Martha Jackson, of Green County, and about a year later came to Houston. Of this marriage there are now living one son and six daughters.

Mr. A.H. Tharp of Perry, Mrs. J.A. Ansley of Americus, Mrs. H.C. Irwin of Atlanta, Mrs. O.P. Willingham of Macon, Mrs. C.T. Lawson, Miss Mattie Tharp and Mrs. E.L. Dennard of Perry. All these attended the funeral except Mrs. Willingham, who was ill at home.

For sixty-one years Dr. Tharp was an able and zealous minister of the Baptist Church, for nearly twenty consecutive years pastor at Perry. At the time of his death he was pastor of the Hayneville and Henderson Baptist Churches. For a number of years he was a trustee of Mercer University, and about twenty years ago the Doctor of Divinity degree was conferred upon him by that college.

As a farmer, a citizen, a minister of the gospel, a Christian, he was true to his convictions, earnest, positive, progressive. A man of strong convictions, he ever did that which he believed to be right, though not without charity for those who erred through weakness or ignorance.

He was confined to his bed only a few days prior to his death, peacefully he answered the summons to the eternal world, as was befitting a man whose life here had been exceptionally active.

Probably no man in Georgia held the love of Baptist in a higher degree than he and all who knew him esteemed him an able and devout minister true to his calling.

He is at home with his Maker, and the bereaved ones have the true sympathy of their many friends.

The loss of the church on earth, the community, the state, is great and only comparable to his own eternal gain.

1900's to Present

- ❖ W. H. Norton: Home Journal published August 2, 1900 states that the Houston County Baptist Union secured him to preach one Sunday per month at Hayneville for \$5 each month, plus contributions by the church.
- ❖ W. B. Bassett: Called to preach at Hayneville Baptist Church beginning May 1915. He preached both morning and evening services and was pastor through at least 1918.
- ❖ H. H. Haines: At Least 1935 -1937
- ❖ Simon Anderson: November 1937 – August 1940
- ❖ Paul Mosley: September 1940, Salary \$180 Per Year
- ❖ Clyde Allen: July 1943
- ❖ H. E. Coker: February 1944, Salary \$30 Per week
- ❖ John A. Pirtle: November 1945
- ❖ Jack Carroll: March 1947 through May 1949
- ❖ Randy Henson: Served from May 1949 to October 1949
- ❖ Thomas R. Eason: Served from October 1949 to June 25, 1950. Salary started at \$35 weekly.
- ❖ W. W. Campbell: Called to fill unexpired term of Rev. Tom Eason who Resigned – Conference July 2, 1950
- ❖ Andrew Caldwell: Served from August 1950 through September 1952
- ❖ Angus Hart: Served from October 1952 to January 1953
- ❖ Harry Northington: Served from February to November 1953 at \$25 per week
- ❖ J. J. Morrow: Called November 29, 1953 until probably 1963
- ❖ Harvey Rackley
- ❖ Robert Pitts: Served from August 1966 to 1974

- ❖ Robert Parrish: Ordained at First Baptist Hayneville June 16, 1974 and served to 1975
- ❖ Johnny Cook: Served October 1975 to 1979
- ❖ Marvin Taylor: Served from 1979 to 1983
- ❖ Doug Boss: Served 1984 through at least 1989
- ❖ Daryl Harbin: Served 1990 to 1993
- ❖ David Fisher: Elected as Senior Pastor in February 1994 and served until his heavenly home going on January 15, 2024. Brother David was the longest serving pastor of Haynesville Baptist Church. Under his leadership the church grew, and the addition of the family life center and new sanctuary came to fruition.

- ❖ Winfred Huff: Licensed July 1976 and ordained March 1979; Interim Pastor from May 1993 to November 1993; has served as Associate Pastor from 1997 to the present

Also serving currently are:

- ❖ Matt Caporale, Youth Pastor
- ❖ Andrew Robinson, Music Minister
- ❖ John Fowler, Senior Adult Minister

PLAY BALL!!!

First Baptist Haynesville has had a successful softball team going back many decades. It's been a time of fun, fellowship and an outreach ministry for young men and their families.



Perry Church League Champions

.. Members of the Hayneville Baptist Church softball team that won the Perry Church League softball championship Tuesday night are pictured above.

Left to right front row - Mike Fowler (bat boy), Norris Bedgood, Mickey Yansom, Tubby Fowler, Bobby Fowler, Wimp Huff, and Marvin Fowler. Back row - Robert Spainhour, Donnie Fowler, Joey Adams, Carley Hamsley, Danny Hamsley and Buddy Redmond.

August 24, 1972, Houston Home Journal



Hayneville League Champs

The First Baptist Church of Hayneville, league champs for 1979, are shown above. 1st Row (L-R): Mike Fowler, Dan Wright, Tubby Fowler, Sidney Griffen, Tim Albritton. 2nd Row: Jeff Vogt, William Simmons, Joey Adams, Bobby

Fowler, Keith Padgett, Marvin Fowler. Not pictured: Terry Hamsley, Donnie Fowler, Jeff Peavy, Lester Weekly, Keith McClain, Billy Gordon, Danny Hamsley, Darrel Albritton, Darrel Thompson.

July 19,
1979



Hayneville Baptist

Pictured above is the Hayneville Baptist Church softball team which took first place in the Perry Recreation Department church softball league.

July 11, 1992

Houston Home Journal

Hayneville church team takes first place

The First Baptist Hayneville Men's Softball Team participated in the Perry Church League this year and won First Place.

This is the third year our church team has captured top honors. Congratulations, men, our church

is proud of you.

Team members are: Eric and Joey Adams, Brad Bozrman, David Fisher, Bobby, Marvin, John, Mike and Tommy Fowler, Matt Hall, Chip Lollis, Rick Nable, Jeff Peavy, Ben and Miles Sanders,

Kevin Smith and Tim and Terry Yawn.

A church-wide picnic will be held Saturday August 20, 1994 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a co-ed softball game and games for children.

August 17, 1994



May 30, 2024

Still Winning!

100 years young!



Special Photo
"Aunt Ethel Giddens" Day was held recently at Hayneville First Baptist Church. Rev. David Fisher and the members of Hayneville First welcomed "Aunt Ethel" as their newest member on her 100th birthday. Rev. Fisher told the members present that "Aunt Ethel" has been a Christian for a number of years but did not have a church home. The church presented her with gifts and then sang her favorite hymn, "In the Garden". At the end of the service she came to unite with the church. Pictured with her (l-r) are Rev. Winfred Huff, Associate Pastor; Rev. David Fisher, Pastor; Aunt Ethel Giddens; Donnie Shiples; Bessie Shiples and Charles Shiples, family members.

Celebrations of Centenarians

Left- Recognition of Ethel Giddens in May 2002

Below- Celebration of Ruth Hutto's 100th birthday in August 2020, pictured with her daughters, Theresa Singletary and Gail Yansom and presentation by Rep. Larry Walker III

HOUSTON HOME JOURNAL



Submitted

Interesting Cemetery Facts

- There are 12 known Civil War Veterans buried in our cemetery.
- The oldest grave is Mary Elizabeth Crowder Leverett, June 5, 1824 – September 21, 1854
- Many of the older graves are of members of the Methodist Church as they had no cemetery of their own.
- There are approximately 359 marked graves, and at least 61 unmarked graves. There is currently an effort underway to be certain all graves are marked and mapped.

TIMES SPENT TOGETHER



Sock Hop 2024 above, Wild Game Supper 2024 below





Women's Weekend 2023 above, Youth Group 2022 below



Sources:

- New Georgia Encyclopedia
- Rehoboth Association Records
- The Heritage of Houston County Georgia 1821-2001
- A Land So Dedicated by Bobbe Hickson
- Houston County Superior Court Land Records
- Ellie Loudermilk of the Perry History Museum
- Information provided to the Central Georgia Genealogical Society from Mrs. Lou Daniel, daughter of Joseph Tooke.
- The Perry Times archives
- Memoirs of R C Halliburton in First Hundred and Ten Years of - Houston County, Georgia (1822-1932)
- Historical Sketch of Houston County Georgia Baptists by Walter M. Lee in 1923
- Christian Index Archives
- Houston Home Journal Archives
- Church Record Books

Information compiled by: Jeannine Hall, Theresa Singletary, and Gail Yansom, serving on History Committee for FBCH Bicentennial

